

News Focus

Man killed in LaGrange County hit-and-run
BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
jamiel@kpcnews.net

HOWE — A Constantine, Mich. man died Friday morning as the result of a hit-and-run crash.

Kevin Jay White, 36, was riding a motorcycle northbound on C.R. 225E in Howe and was approaching the intersection with S.R. 120 just after 12:35 a.m., a report from the LaGrange County Sheriff's Department said.

White failed to stop at the intersection and was struck by a westbound vehicle.

The driver of the westbound vehicle didn't stop after the crash. White died at the scene, the report said.

The accident remains under investigation.

Relief, worry follow arrests in Phoenix serial killer case
PHOENIX (AP) — James Baldwin changed his cycling route twice — first to busy streets, then to back roads — to try to avoid being the latest victim of whoever had been gunning down lone bicyclists and pedestrians for the past 15 months.

Baldwin was back to his former carefree routine Friday, when authorities said they caught two men they believe to be responsible for three dozen shootings that left six people dead and wounded 17 others.

"Now I don't have to worry about getting shot," the 59-year-old said. But among others, relief over arrests in the case of the "Serial Shooter" was tempered by knowledge that another Phoenix-area serial killer has yet to be caught.

Kimberly Kennedy, 38, still felt vulnerable as she walked with a crutch along one of central Phoenix's busiest streets. Not only has the area seen some of the Serial Shooter killings, but it also is where the other predator, dubbed the "Baseline Killer," targeted some of his rape and murder victims.

Info

The News-Sun
P.O. Box 39, 102 N. Main St.
Kendallville, IN 46755
Telephone: (260) 347-0400
Fax: (260) 347-2693
Classifieds: (toll free) (877) 791-7877
Circulation: (260) 347-0400
or (800) 717-4679

LAGRANGE BUREAU
111 W. Spring St., Suite 7
LaGrange, IN 46761
Telephone: (260) 463-4081
Fax: (260) 463-7962

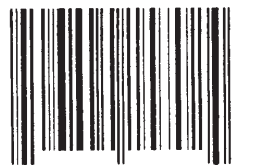
On the Web:
www.thenewssunonline.com
www.kpcpages.com
(free community Web pages)

Reprints of all KPC photos can be purchased online at www.fwdailynews.com under Reader Services: Photo Gallery.

Inside

ClassifiedB3-B8
DeathsA4
AgriBusinessA5
OpinionA9
SportsB1-B3
LifeA6
TV, Comics, Dear AbbyA8

Vol. 97 No. 215


7 06804 15702 4

Child, 7, dies in possible drowning

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
jamiel@kpcnews.net

ROUND LAKE — A 7-year-old Kendallville boy died Friday in what was likely a drowning.

Indiana Conservation Officer Rodney D. Clear identified the child as Michael W. Kimmel. The incident occurred at about 2:45 p.m.

The boy was found floating in approximately 10 feet of water about 20 feet from shore in Round Lake in the

Kendallville

1500 block of Brookview in Kendallville.

"He was located by his father, William L. Kimmel of Kendallville," Clear said. "The victim was taken to shore by family members where CPR was performed by them, as well as (members of the) Kendallville Fire Department."

The child was taken to Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville by Noble County Emergency Medical Service. He was pronounced dead at 3:58 p.m.

Clear said the boy had been swimming with a float toy in the lake earlier in the day with his father. The pair had gone back up to a house on the lake, and the boy was found after he had been missing for about 20 minutes.

"The victim was a non-swimmer and

was not wearing a life jacket," Clear said.

An autopsy will be performed by the Noble County coroner. That autopsy will determine an official cause of death, Clear said.

Also assisting at the scene were Indiana Conservation Officer Patrick Heidenreich and representatives from the Noble County Sheriff's Department and the Kendallville Police Department.

Police raid meth 'distribution center'

6 arrested after major operation near Kendallville

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — It was allegedly where to go if you needed meth ingredients or finished product.

On Friday afternoon, that's where special operations and tactics teams from four different northeastern Indiana agencies went.

Police arrested four persons at a home in rural Kendallville, capping off a three-month investigation set up by the Indiana Multi Agency Group Enforcement (I.M.A.G.E.) drug task force. Two additional arrests were made at other locations following the raid.

Arrested at the home in the 4600 block of C.R. 400E west of Kendallville were:

- Jim A. Edsall, 43, the home owner, on five Class A felony counts of delivery of methamphetamine and four Class A felony counts of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.
- Dale L. Trowbridge, 46, of Ligonier on a Class A felony charge of manufacturing methamphetamine.
- Jennifer Trowbridge, 26, of Ligonier on two Class A felony counts of manufacturing methamphetamine.
- Jackie Hammel, 34, of Kendallville on a Class A felony count of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Arrested subsequently were:

- Renee Randol, 32, of Rome City on charges of neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Class D felony; taking a child to a nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor; and visiting a common nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor.
- Jerrod E. Geiger, 35, of Albion on a Class A felony charge of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and a Class A felony charge of manufacturing methamphetamine.



Members of the Noble County Special Operations Group stand guard over drug suspect Jim A. Edsall, 43, after officers from four different agencies executed arrest

warrants at Edsall's 140-acre farm property in the 4600 block of C.R. 400E west of Kendallville Friday afternoon. Edsall faces nine Class A felony charges.

All of the suspects are being held without bond in the Noble County Jail.

Police discovered an active methamphetamine lab while serving arrest warrants at the residence Friday afternoon.

According to Noble County Prosecuting Attorney Steve Clouse, a large majority of the investigation was focused on the alleged criminal activity occurring at Edsall's 140-acre farm property.

"This place has been a central hub for the manufacture and distribution (of methamphetamine) in not only Noble County but in all of northeastern Indiana," Clouse said. "This was kind of a distribution center of anhydrous

ammonia."

Anhydrous ammonia is an ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

"This is where they came," Noble County Sheriff Gary Leatherman said. "Hopefully, this will make it difficult for some of the smaller labs in the area to continue."

"We took some people off that we've been after quite awhile."

The investigation began on May 8 when the I.M.A.G.E. drug task force was able to get an undercover officer inside of the alleged drug operation.

On Friday morning, special operations teams from LaGrange County, Steuben County, Noble County

and the Auburn Police Department met to work out final details on the raid. At approximately 3:25 p.m., the go order was given and the teams stormed the rural property, simultaneously taking out the main two-story residence and several out buildings.

There were no injuries.

I.M.A.G.E. consists of officers from the Noble County Sheriff's Department, Kendallville Police Department, Indiana State Police, Auburn Police Department and members from several Steuben County agencies.

"The drug task force did an excellent job in this case," Clouse said. "They've done an outstanding job getting this done."

New soccer fields open in Mongo Sanchez brings league play to LaGrange County

BY WANDA YODER
newssun@earthlink.net

MONGO — A new soccer field was recently developed on S.R. 3, approximately one and one-half miles north of U.S. 20.

Pedro Sanchez of Mongo purchased 10 acres of farm land last fall from his father-in-law, who lives next door to the field.

With the help of friends in the game, he began clearing the field this spring.

Sanchez grew up playing soccer and now plays for the El Senior team in the Adult Mexican League. Attempts at a soccer field for league play in Sturgis and Shipshewana had failed, leaving the league to rent fields to play in and traveling as far away as Three Rivers, Coldwater, Sturgis and Bronson, all in Michigan. Most teams are from lower Michigan and northern LaGrange County area.

"This is a dream of mine," Sanchez said of the venture.

"I had someone plow the corn stalks under in April. I come out every evening after work and move rocks," he explained.

Sanchez acquired logs approximately 5 inches in diameter that are used for goal posts. With the help of other team-mates, uneven places in the ground have been filled and new grass planted. The soccer



Pedro Sanchez of Mongo, along with friends, has developed and recently opened a new soccer field. The field of play is on S.R. 3, approximately one and one-half miles north of U.S. 20.

field has been measured to professional dimensions. Ample parking is along the south side of the field.

The El Senior team practices at the new field each Wednesday evening at 7

p.m. For more information on scheduling practice or game times, contact Pedro Sanchez at 367-2715 or El Senior owner and team manager Hector Cervantes at 463-8235.

Israel severs Lebanon's last major tie to Syria

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Israel and Hezbollah fought bloody ground battles and exchanged fierce air and missile strikes Friday — including bombing raids that severed Lebanon's last major supply link with Syria and the outside world, and the guerrillas' deepest rocket attack inside Israel to date.

Loud explosions resounded in Beirut early Saturday as Israeli warplanes renewed their onslaught, carrying out several strikes on southern suburbs, local media said. Israeli helicopters, meanwhile, attacked suspected Hezbollah positions in the southern city of Tyre, according to residents.

After days of desultory diplomacy, Washington said it was near agreement with France on a U.N. cease-fire resolution, possibly by early next week. But Israel and Hezbollah showed no signs of holding their fire.

Israeli aircraft on a mission Friday to destroy weapons caches hit a refrigerated warehouse where farm workers were loading fruit, killing at least 28 near the Lebanon-Syria border. And three Hezbollah rockets landed near

SEE ISRAEL, PAGE A12